

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 5, May 2010

K6OTA

K6YQT

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 73 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937



### CALENDAR



**MAY 7, PAARA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**  
Menlo Park Rec Ctr  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**May 19, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**  
Palo Alto Red Cross  
400 Mitchell Lane

**May 19, DEADLINE** for April PAARAgraphs submissions  
Send items for publication to Robin Yee, K16YTA,  
at K16YTA@ARRL.net, or Paul Petach, K8QXY,  
at paulpetach@gmail.com

### President's Corner

This year is unfolding as quickly as ever and we are now just a short two months (about 8 weeks) away from Field Day as of this writing. We have also been right in the midst of vernal equinox propagation, but the sun has been just a bit too busy.

We have had a few very nice spots that provided openings for some of the recent contest activity. In the CQ Magazine WPX (world prefix) SSB contest at the end of March, 15 meters was open for most of the day on Saturday and 20 meters was open nicely after 15 closed. I was able to work Senegal, 6V7M, on 20 meters on Saturday afternoon. That was a new one for me and that sure made my day. As we got into April, there were a number of CMEs (coronal mass ejections) that made conditions on HF much worse. At one point the planetary A index, a measure of geomagnetic instability, reached a high of 49, the highest since 2005. That made the bands unusable for a



(Continued on page 43) Pres Corner



**You won't want to miss  
our next meeting!**

**MAY 7, 2010**

*Our speaker will be...*

**...Bill Dale ~ H2RHV**

Bill Dale, H2RHV, our ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Manager, will update us on the latest goings-on at the League.

Also, we will auction off the HP 1631D.



### Welcome New PAARA Members!

Peter Chow, AF6DS, Sunnyvale  
Tony Jarajuria, KJ6BBC, Mountain View  
Robin Moore, AF6QC, San Jose  
Greg Norton, AF6TH, Los Altos  
Lodema Epperson, KI6UGV, Hayward  
Douglas Osborne, KI6VNI, Redwood City



**VE Events, 3rd Sunday each month, 10:00AM, 145.23 - PL=100Hz**

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room  
 1044 Mitchell Road, Redwood City, CA  
 website: <http://www.ve-events.org> or AL, W6RBL Zephie.net

**ELECTRONICS FLEX MARKET**

Sponsored by A.S.V.A.R.O.  
 (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Operators)  
 General Activities of events, March/April, May/June  
 Howard M. Karsens, M0HMA 650.456.9705

Contact: [howardm@siliconvalleyamateurs.org](mailto:howardm@siliconvalleyamateurs.org)

**LIVERMORE SWAP MEET**

1st & 2nd Saturdays at Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month, 7 am to 1:00 pm. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see [www.livswap.org](http://www.livswap.org) or contact the Editor, W4TCT or [patrick@livermorehamradio.com](mailto:patrick@livermorehamradio.com)

**PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 7:00pm each month at Minnie Park Rec. Center, Box 145,200 - PL, 100Hz. Meeting at 6:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org> for more information.  
 Or contact: Joel Wilbur, K6WV, [joelw@paara.com](mailto:joelw@paara.com), 650-325-8239

**FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month at 7:00pm  
 website: <http://www.foarhs.org/>

**NCDXC Northern California DX Club**

meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 7:00pm each month,  
 sponsor for member info: W4JSS, Thursday 8:00PM  
 website: <http://ncdxc.org/> or Mike Davis, W5WZ, (951) 811-4893

**QCWA Chapter 11**

Northern California Quarter Century Window Association  
 Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hoofers in Redwood City 7:15-8:45  
 Hands-on activities: Saturday morning net on 144.818 MHz, PL=100

**NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club**

meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month  
 website: <http://www.norcalqrp.org>

**SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System**

meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net: 145.27, 490.40 MHz  
 website: <http://www.specs.org/> or Tom Connor, K6MLP, 415-483-0443

**SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service**

meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00pm each month, San Carlos City Hall  
 Net on 144.445 PL (14.8) & 444.58 PL (14.8) 7:00-7:30 Monday evenings  
 website: President Gary D. Adams, K6HDA 650-743-1265(D), 650-391-3596 (H)  
 Web: <http://scares.org> or [web@scares.org](mailto:web@scares.org)

**SCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association**

Operates W6W11 & W6W28, operates 144.98 PL  
 Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm below, Tues, 442.425 PL (14.8) 7:00-7:30 Thurs.  
 meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM  
 website: <http://www.sccara.org/> or Clark Murphy, K6KCD 408-240-4274  
 ARRL/NCV: former listing error on 408-187-0676

**SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications**

District AARL operator (146.315 MHz)  
 website: <http://www.svecs.org/> or Les Brown, W6AUS 408-241-7999

**TEARS The Ulster Amateur Radio Society**

Dedicated to open door training, knowledge building &  
 FCC exam testing. K6VSE operates under restrictions  
 Contact: [ARL@qsl.net](mailto:ARL@qsl.net), NET. When members are active  
 check on VEC. See QRG for conditions for club net.

**WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association**

WVAF11 net, member reports on 143.0 (Buck). Netted by, also members in linked nets 147 and 217, 100Hz PL  
 and 146 equipment are linked.

VHF: 51.35 (150) 151.4 (200) GHP: 443.31 (150) 443.31 (200)  
 147.38 (1400) 151.4 (200) 443.31 (150) 443.31 (200)  
 223.96 (110) 151.4 (200) 123.6 (200) 123.6 (200)

Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at every month.

website: <http://www.wvara.org/>, Bill Ashby K6TTC, 408-267-3111, [k6ttc@wvara.com](mailto:k6ttc@wvara.com), or  
 K6TTC@ARRL.NET

**American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER**

website: <http://www.americanredcross.org/> or Fred Housley K6HPO, (408) 951-7924  
[fredhousley@arrl.net](mailto:fredhousley@arrl.net)

*Please send changes to PAARagraphs editor: K6TTC@wvara.com*

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

**Officers**

President .....	Kristen McIntire, K6WV	510-703-4942
Vice President .....	Travis@alam.net	
Doug Tarr, K6LWE		650-367-6200
Secretary .....	dick@wvar.com	
Rick Melrose K6RDM		408-341-9070
Treasurer .....	travis@alam.net	
Ron Chaker, W6AZ		408-343-2221
ron@w6help.com		

**Directors**

PAAR President ("10) .....	Joel Wilbur, K6WV	650-325-8239
k6wv@alam.net		
Director ("10) .....	Rob Riley, K6BNR	(alt) 650-799-1607
rg6bnr@alam.net		
Director ("11) .....	Byron Beck K6BUOB	408-735-8064
rg6bnr@alam.net		
Director ("10) .....	Mark Cohen K6EF	
markc@binaryfash.com		
Director ("10) .....	Larry Ruchnick K6CRH	

**Appointed Positions**

Membership .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366-0636
ab6so@arrl.com		
Intake .....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
travis@alam.net		
Chaplain .....	Rev. Rick Lane, K6TMD	650-323-8164
rg6bnr@alam.net		
Public Affairs .....	Vacant	
Station Trustee: W6CTX, K6VQT, W6ARA, ....	Gerry Tucker, K6VY	
Station Trustee: K6OTA	Ron Chaker, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Gerry Tucker, K6VY	
Fund Raising Coordinator: Bob Kane, K6AKYT		408-398-4743
bob@glennchad.com		
Badge Coordinator .....	Lynn Geary, K6JUP	
Historian .....	Christopher McIntire, K6BSV	
Raffle Coordinator .....	Jim Hase, K6AR	650-851-2274
Ticket Master .....	Kyle Rice, K6WSE	
Field Day Coordinator .....	Doug Tarr, K6LWE	
ASVAD Rep .....	Karl Klimek, W6HJ	650-656-2748
karl@alam.net		
Webmaster .....	Mark Cohen K6EF	
markc@binaryfash.com		
Technical Coordinator .....	Joel Wilbur, K6WV	650-325-8239
k6wv@alam.net		
QSL Manager .....	Rob Riley, K6BNR	(alt) 650-799-1607
rg6bnr@alam.net		
Speaker Coordinator .....	Doug Tarr, K6LWE	650-325-8239
dtaar@wvar.com		

**PAARagraphs Staff**

<b>Editorial Board</b>		
PAUL PETACH K6QXV	Robin Yee K6YTA	
Kristen McIntire K6WV	Vic Black AB6SO	
Ron Chaker W6AZ	Joel Wilbur, K6WV	
Editor .....	Paul Petach, K6QXV	Robin Yee, K6YTA
petach@alam.net		K6YTA@alam.net
Advertising .....	Ron Chaker, W6AZ	408-343-2221
ron@w6help.com		
Member Profiles .....	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-364-9111
Technical Tips .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366-0636
ab6so@arrl.com		
Photographer .....	Bill Young, K6VWD	
jdyoung@glennchad.net		

**Please contact Rick Melrose to  
 settle your 2010 membership dues so  
 you can keep receiving your  
 PAARagraphs.**

**PAARA 2010 General Meeting dates—1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6, 9/3, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3—**

**PAARAgaphs—May 2010**  
*Celebrating 70 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937*

*(Continued from page 41)*

time. Using my 3D Sun iPhone app, I was able to hear the low shock of the particle flux as recorded by radio astronomer Thomas Ashcroft. According to a notice on that application today, we are about to see another nice sunspot to-rare into view. Hopefully this will lead to more DX on the bands.

Speaking of iPhones, our last meeting featured a talk by Bob Iannucci, W6EI, about his new iPhone app for trans-mitter hunting. It was a wonderful application of a hand-held general purpose computing platform with sensors to one of our hobby's specialty areas. Bob's application makes use of the iPhone OS's Core Location services to find position and bearings. Using that information, and properly compensating for the Earth's curvature, something that turns out to be essential for accurate results, he is able to plot the results on a map on the phone's screen. This application was used on real t-hunts with great success. Bob also has some more integrated t-hunt software and hardware in the works. We'll keep in touch and see what he comes up with next.

I recently attended the Field Day team's first planning meeting. Doug, KG6LWE, our Field Day coordinator, has gotten us off to a great start as we put together all of the details that make each PAARA Field Day such a success. We discussed many of the logistic issues from radios to food. We also talked about band plans and how to better integrate GOTA station operation with our other stations. I think we will have even more of a commanding signal this year on all bands. As Doug said, this year every station gets a tri-bander! Between that and improving propagation, we will be ready to light up "Signal Ridge" in Redwell Bayfront Park come the best full weekend in June (the 25th - 27th). I'm sure we'll be needing more help and we would welcome your contribution. If you are interested in operating, putting up or tearing down, helping out with the food, or any other kind of help, please contact Doug or any PAARA officer or board member.

Just a little over a month ago, PAARA lost a great friend when Elaine, WA6UBE, became a silent key. It was quite sudden and many of us were so very stunned and saddened by the loss of part of our ham family. Elaine was a real supporter of PAARA, a passionate and knowledgeable ham, and a very special person. All of us who know her will miss her greatly. Our deepest condolences go out to Elaine's wife, Cinda, at this difficult time.

Thanks to all of you who have been working on new stories for PAARAgaphs. I have received several recently and would love to receive more. Please keep it up and help the PAARAgaphs editors, Robin, K16YTA, and Paul, K16QXV, continue to bring you the best newsletter around!

CUL DE KSWX

## Board Meeting Minutes 4/21/10

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:15 PM on the 21st of April, 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Doug Teter KG6LWE (VP), Rick McIntire K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Larry Reharcik N6CCH (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Rob Riley K16INR (Dir), and Robin Yee K16YTA (Editor). A quorum was present.

**Secretary's Report:** Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 17th of March Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

**President's Report:** Kristen K6WX reported that the presentation at the March general meeting was very well received. Planning and coordination regarding participation in the Maker Faire is proceeding apace. We will have a table indoors across from an ARRL table, where Kristen and Leigh Klotz WA5ZNTJ are planning to do oscilloscope demonstrations. Mike NE6RD will also have a table and is doing a fine job of organizing so ham radio will be well represented at the fair. And, regarding the website, plans are still in progress to relocate the hosting for the site.

**Vice President Doug KG6LWE** and **Larry N6CCH** report that the projects to upgrade the club's KT-34 beams and the Force 12 C38 are progressing well and plans are in the works for additional antenna parties to finish off the work. Plans for placement of the antennas for Field Day have been worked out as well as the locations and equipment for each of our Field Day stations. Station Captains have been appointed and the membership is encouraged to sign up to operate the CW and Phone stations. Our GOTA operation is being reorganized with more comfortable quarters and a new location up on top of the ridge and is also looking for club members who want to help man the station and coach the new operators.

*(Continued on page 44)*

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

*Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board*

**Wally Porter K4URO Dec 2008**

**Steve Smith, K6FS Dec 2007**

*(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 43)*

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron W6AZ reported that raffle proceeds, sales of equipment at the Electronics Flea Market on April 10th, and membership renewals have done quite well. The club membership is reminded that contributions to thank the Red Cross in appreciation for our antenna trailer are still in order.

The board discussed a number of additional topics including logistics and equipment for Field Day, the preparation of a PR announcement, and the possibility of a field trip to one-time commercial CW station KPSS, here in the south Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

### **Congratulations to the winners of the April 2010 Raffle!**



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Tony Kodj / W6AWK / LDG Z100 Plus Antenna Tuner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Tony Kodj / W6AWK / Icom IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: John Cameron / K6MSM / Deltran Battery Tender Junior Charger
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Rob Fenn / KC6TYD / Two Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios
- 5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Mike Pechner / NE6RD / Rotary Tool / 36 Pc. Accessory Kit
- 6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Michael Gregg / KF6WRW / 9 LED Flashlight
- 7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Marty Wayne / W6NEY / Yaesu Log Book
- 8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Icom Band Plan

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
of PAARA's exciting monthly raffles!**

## **Need your License? Ready to Upgrade?**

### **Announcing Ham testing by the Tri-City VE Group**

**Where:** Hurricane Electric  
48233 Warm Springs Blvd  
Fremont, CA

**When:** Saturday, May 8, 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday, June 17, 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, July 10, 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact  
Rita, [K16SSQ@arrl.net](mailto:K16SSQ@arrl.net), (510) 703-7090

or

Bernhard, [AE6YN@arrl.net](mailto:AE6YN@arrl.net), (510) 364-0611

or visit

[www.sbara.org](http://www.sbara.org).

**Hope to see you soon!**

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2009! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now and experience the 2010 events with the "finest club around."

### **PAARA Exemplary Service Award**

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005

Rice Family 2006

Jim K6AK, Lisa K6KQS, Kyle K6MSK

Wally Porter, K6URO 2007

Vic Black, AB6ST 2008

?? - 2009



**PAARAgaphs—May 2010**  
 Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

## **PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”**

### **May 7<sup>th</sup> Raffle Prizes**

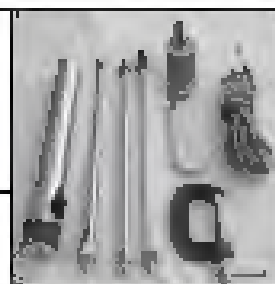
#### **FIRST PRIZE: Icom IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT**



- Rugged / Water Resistant / 750mW of Loud Audio
- NiMH / 1400mAh Battery Pack / 13 Hours Operating Time
- Drop-In Charging Base
- PC Programmable with Optional CS-V80
- WX Channel and Weather Alert Function (USA Version Only)
- Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (Optional)

#### **SECOND PRIZE: Super Antennas MP1 Portable HF 7-450MHz**

- 3.5 - 4MHz with Optional Coil
- QRP to 200W Operation
- Adjust Slider to Frequency and Snug Down Band Lock Screw
- Portable / Easy to Set Up Operation
- Antenna Mount Included



#### **THIRD PRIZE: West Mountain COMsplt**



- RF Proof Amplified Stereo Computer Speaker System
- Stereo High Fidelity Response for Use with Voice or Music
- Optimized for Operation in Close Range of any Radio Transmitter

**FOURTH PRIZE:** Two Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios with Batteries

**FIFTH PRIZE:** APC Surge Protector 7 Outlet Power Strip w/Safety Covers

**SIXTH PRIZE:** (Three) 3-LED Push-Lites / Stick Where You Want / Push On-Off

**SEVENTH PRIZE:** ARRL 2009-2010 Repeater Directory

**EIGHTH PRIZE:** Yaesu Log Book

Since February 2003, 175 Radios, including THREE Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Dan, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued support!

*de K6AK.5m*



## Net Control Opportunity!

We have an opening for  
a Net Control operator  
on the Monday night  
PAARA net.

If you would like to take  
a shot at net control,  
contact Doug Teter,  
KG6LWE, at  
[dteter@wcvl.com](mailto:dteter@wcvl.com).

## Contesting Webinars in May

Kirk Pickering, K4RO, National Contest Journal (NCJ) Contesting 101 column editor shares tips and tricks for the beginning contest operator and maybe even something for the old timer.

The on-line Webinar is sponsored by the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). The event will be held **Friday, May 7, 2010 at 9 PM EDT** (Saturday, May 8 - 01:00UTC). All you need is your PC, speakers, and an Internet connection.

Registration is free, but you must register by going to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/604051586>. You can also find the link, and recorded events from earlier Webinars, by going to [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org).

PVRC is also sponsoring the May 25 "VHF Contesting: What To Do and How To Win" Webinar (<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/978706411>). Questions or comments can be sent to [k4zw@comcast.net](mailto:k4zw@comcast.net).

## Support the Red Cross— They support us!

As a thank you to the Bay Area Chapter of the Red Cross, who gifted PAARA with a fabulous Tower Trailer, won't you please consider making a donation to the Red Cross? *Ron Chester has agreed to match the first \$150 donated with his own check of \$100.* Checks should be made out to "American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter." In the memo line write **For: Response Communications.**

You can give your check to any club officer at the next PAARA meeting, or you can mail it to Aaron Litwin, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, 85 2<sup>nd</sup> St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Send a note to Ron regarding your donation and we will see what happens. Thanks one and all!!! de, Gerry N6NV



James Furrey  
Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd.  
1055 Stevenson Road, Belmont, CA 94602  
Tel: 415-804-5700 • Fax: 415-804-1100  
Email: 415-804-1111 • [jamecoelectronics.com](http://jamecoelectronics.com)

[www.jamecoelectronics.com](http://www.jamecoelectronics.com)

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**See the next**  
**page for details**



**Directions to PAARA meeting:**  
<http://paara.org/meetings/>

*Join us for pre-meeting cyclall*  
**Eye Ball QSO**  
**gab & gobble**

*Food will be served at 4:45 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.*

**5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant**  
**1039 El Camino Real**  
**Menlo Park**

*across from Kepler's Book Store*  
*on El Camino Real*  
*Walking distance from Caltrain!*

## Where's your badge?

If you ordered a badge but  
have not yet picked it up,  
or if you would like to  
order a badge, see  
**Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.**

## PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session every Monday evening  
8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater.

*Control operators:*

Week	Operator
1 <sup>st</sup>	Doug Tyler KG6LWE
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Petach K1QXX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Peter Sheerin K6WEB
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AVAILABLE—Contact Doug Tyler</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Bray N6MER

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association  
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm in the  
Menlo Park Rac Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm on the  
145.230-400 MHz repeater, PL 1600Hz

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year,  
which includes one subscription to PAARAgraphs  
\$6 for each additional family member (no discount).

Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,  
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

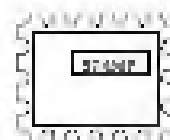
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# PAARAgraphs — May 2010

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
PAARAgraphs Newsletter  
P.O. Box 911  
Menlo Park, California 94026

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

12 STORE BUYING POWER

**HAM Radio Outlet**  
ONLINE ESTABLISHED 1988

12 STORE BUYING POWER

**KENWOOD**

**TH-5100** 2-Watt  
This is a very popular 2-Watt VHF/UHF mobile transceiver. It has a built-in speaker and a 160-1000 MHz frequency range. It is a great choice for emergency communication.

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This is a very popular 2-Watt VHF/UHF mobile transceiver. It has a built-in speaker and a 160-1000 MHz frequency range. It is a great choice for emergency communication.

**ICOM**

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